

ROBERTS REPORT

JULY 2010

A Ministry Report of Brent & Kerri Roberts
Missionaries with Action International Ministries

Kuyenda Pa Sogolo - The Way Forward

Greetings from cold but sunny Lusaka, Zambia! A lot has happened in the life of our family over the last few months! So, we felt it was a good time to update you on all things new with the Roberts family and our ministry here in Zambia. We've also made some decisions recently concerning our future here in Zambia and wanted the opportunity to share them to you!

A New Arrival

In case you have not received some of our latest email communications, on February 18th of this year, we welcomed a new member into our family: Thomas Mwila Roberts. Thomas is a family name on both sides of our family. Thomas was abandoned by his family and brought to a local orphanage by a "good samaritan." They do not know his true age, but say that he is 5. We started visiting him in the orphanage in Oct 2009 and started the required fostering period of 3 months in February. We hope to finalize the adoption process here in Zambia in the next few months. Join us in rejoicing over our new son!



A Graduation:

On May 25th, 2010 we had a first. 20 Students graduated from our 1 year Navigators discipleship program. But these 20 students were not trained by us, they were trained by pastors who we had trained the previous year. The graduation was held at one of the pastor's churches and Muvi TV was present. They broadcasted a story on the local news about the event! Multiplication is one of the core values of all of our ACTION ministries. So, it was very encouraging to see students of students graduating from this effective discipleship program.



Construction is Underway:

This time last year, we had a team from Vacaville Church in California helping dig a pit latrine and tear down some delapidated structures. A year later, the pit latrine is finished, a new Nsaka has been built and we are in the finishing stages for 5 new camping chalets and an outdoor kitchen. Ciyanjano, our conference/retreat/camp centre is finally taking shape! We are very excited about the development to date! More on that on the reverse.



The Way Forward:

When we originally committed to serving with Action International Ministries in Zambia, we really didn't know what the future held. We knew God wanted us here, but didn't know for how long. So, we committed to a three year term when we came in February of 2008, but tried to remain open to the fact that God might have plans for us here that extended beyond that initial three year commitment.

Over the last few months, with the end of this term one year away, we have been praying and asking God to lead us as we sought His direction for our future. We feel that He has answered! We really feel that God is not finished with us in Zambia. We would like to commit to another 2-year term, August 2011 to August 2013. Both our field director and the elders of our home church have approved and given their blessing for us to move forward with this plan. At this point, Lord willing, we will return to the States next year for a furlough and then return to Zambia for this extra 2-year term.



Financial support will be a huge part of this plan moving forward. We know that without those who sacrifice to give, we will not be able to continue living and working in Zambia. We understand that this decision directly impacts many of you who already support us financially. This is the main reason we wanted to communicate our thoughts and plans as early as possible. We wanted to give you as much time as possible to pray and see if the Lord might be leading you to commit to His ministry here in Zambia through our family for an additional two years.

Prayer Requests:

Please be in prayer for our family in the following ways:

- Our Family: Pray for our spiritual as well as physical health, for the children and parents as we adjust to Thomas.
- And for Kerri as she homeschools three of the five children.
- Thomas' Adoption: Pray that it would go through in a timely manner.
- Pray that God would raise up new financial supporters to partner us in ministry.
- Pray for Ciyanjano's development and the hammer mill project that is currently underway.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Camp... We love camps. We really love camps.

They bring with them lots of great memories, don't they? Swimming, outdoor games, late night campfires and soaking up the beauty of creation. There is nothing like a camp experience to help give you perspective about God and life. Only in eternity will we know the many millions whose lives were changed by a week at camp.

Did you know that there are currently over 10,000 camps and conference centers in America? There are hundreds in every state. There are thousands more all around the world. The numbers don't lie. There are an estimated 12 million who go to camp every year all over the world. However, in Zambia, we know of two camp and conference centers: one in Kitwe (about 3 hours north) and one in Lusaka (where we live). In Lusaka alone there are over 2 million people, and half of those are children under 16. That one camp in Lusaka is our Ciyanjano Christian Enrichment Centre, which we are trying to develop.

The need is huge! On the outskirts of Lusaka, there are shantytowns called compounds where poverty defies imagination. During the rainy season, sewers and pit latrines overflow, and disease and sickness flows in the streets. During hot season, the stench and suffocating heat oppresses even the strongest soul. Scattered throughout these overcrowded compounds are churches that exist to minister to the poorest of the poor. They have nowhere to escape or rest or get away from these crowded towns. It is for this reason that we want to invest in these communities by offering them a place to retreat, to learn, to be encouraged and refreshed. There was no place to retreat, until now...

CIYANJANO CENTRE (Ciyanjano means "fellowship" in the local Zambian Language) is located just outside of Lusaka, Zambia, in a small rural area called Kasupe. CIYANJANO CENTRE is a twenty-acre property that is owned by ACTION Zambia Ministries. It was bought with the purpose of development for the poor and underprivileged children and churches in Zambia to have conferences, retreats and CAMPS!!!

We here at ACTION Zambia believe in the power of camp and conferences to change churches and children and culture. But, we don't want a camp just for those who can afford it. We want the poorest of the poor, the orphans, the street kids, the vulnerable children and their churches to be able to experience camp in all its fullness. But to do this, we need your help.



Currently, there are two projects that we have undertaken in an effort to both develop and provide for the ongoing financial needs of Ciyanjano:

Kilometers for Kids Marathon:

The first project is the Kilometers for Kids Victoria Falls Marathon/Half Marathon in Zimbabwe, Africa. Kerri and I, along with 5 other team members will be traveling to Zimbabwe on August 29th to run the race.

Kerri will be running the half-marathon and I will be running the full. Included with this prayer letter is a return form to sponsor us in this race. We are asking that people would give a certain amount per kilometer run (i.e. \$1, \$2, or even more per kilometer). 95% of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly towards the development of the Ciyanjano Ministry Centre.



Action Hammer-Mill:

While we currently rely solely on Stateside donations to pay for development and maintenance at Ciyanjano, we would like to be in a position where the centre is more self-sustaining. Because of this, ACTION Zambia is trying to find ways to use part of the facility to generate income to cover the day-to-day operational costs. The first of these efforts is a hammer-mill business. We are installing a maize sheller and hammer-mill on the front corner of the property.



The hope is that this hammer mill will not only provide needed incomes for Ciyanjano, but that it will also develop goodwill in the community as it will be a more centralized place for local villagers and farmers to process their maize (a staple food in the Zambian diet). This week, we began preparing a site for the building that will house the machinery. Currently, we have about half of the budget for this project, but we are trying to raise an additional \$5,000 - \$6,000 to get the mill fully operational.

If you would be interested in donating towards either of these projects, you can do so by sending a check to Action International Ministries in the return envelope provided with this letter. If you would be interested in learning more about Ciyanjano, you can do so by visiting its new website: www.Ciyanjano.org.

Thank you again for your interest in and support of our ministry here in Zambia! God bless you!